

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /129 W

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O R 151020Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0001

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CUSSAG NKP

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SAIGON 20983

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST ATTACK ON FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM HELICOPTERS

1. FOLLOWING IS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY
DECEMBER 15 PROTESTING A COMMUNIST ATTACK ON THREE HELICOPTERS
OF THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM IN WHICH ONE VIETNAMESE
AND ONE AMERICAN WERE KILLED AND SEVEN OTHERS WOUNDED.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

TODAY, DECEMBER 15, 1973, AT 8:15, A.M. THE COMMUNISTS
ATTACKED 3 HELICOPTERS OF THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMIS-
SION AT A POINT DEFINED BY THE COORDINATE XS 675, 874, 8 KILO-
METERS NORTH-WEST OF BINH DIEN, BINH CHANH DISTRICT, GIA-DINH

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PROVINCE, AND 20 KILOMETERS SOUTH-EAST OF SAIGON.

ONE HELICOPTER WAS DESTROYED BY AK BULLETS AND B.40 SHELLS, CAUSING 2 DEAD (1 VIETNAMESE AND 1 AMERICAN AND 7 WOUNDED (3 VIETNAMESE AND 4 AMERICANS).

THE THREE HELICOPTERS UNDER ATTACK, WERE ALL PAINTED IN ORANGE, COLOUR RESERVED FOR THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND WERE CARRYING OUT SINCE THREE DAYS A RESEARCH MISSION IN THE AREA FOR THE REMAINS AND MISSING PERSONNEL OF ALLIED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM HOSTILITIES.

THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THIS MISSION AND EVEN INVITED TO JOIN IN BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE DATED DECEMBER 6, 1973. HOWEVER, THEY ABSTAINED FROM PARTICIPATING AT THE LAST MOMENT.

THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE COMMUNISTS DELIBERATELY FIRED AT HELICOPTERS BELONGING TO AN ORGANIZATION SET UP BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JAN 27, 1973. ALREADY ON APRIL 7, 1973, COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE HAD SHOT DOWN TWO HELICOPTERS OF THE ICCS PERFORMING AN OFFICIAL MISSION FROM GIO LINH TO LAO BAO, KILLING ICCS MEMBERS ON BOARD.

WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS ALWAYS STRICTLY OBSERVED ART. 18 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM, AS WELL AS ITS RELATED PROTOCOLS, BY EXTENDING A CLOSE COOPERATION TO THE ICCS AND BY GRANTING TO THE ICCS EVERY MEANS NECESSARY TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ITS DUTIES, THE COMMUNISTS UP TO NOW HAVE NOT STOPPED SHOWING A COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR THE COMMISSION AND HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO SABOTAGE ITS ACTIVITIES AND TO NEUTRALIZE IT.

THE ARMED ATTACK AGAINST THE HELICOPTERS OF THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE MURDER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONSTITUTE THE LAST CRIMINAL AND CYNICAL STAGE A PARTY COULD REACH AGAINST AN ORGANIZATION SET UP BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JAN 27, 1973.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM STRONGLY DENOUNCES BEFORE NATIONAL AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THE BARBAROUS CRIMES PURPOSEDLY PERPETRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. IT DEMANDS THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE STRICTLY ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE THEMSELVES SUBSCRIBED. THE COMMUNISTS MUST BEAR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH COULD RESULT FROM THEIR CRIMINAL ACTS. END TEXT.

MARTIN

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